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MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

2000-2001
Business Plan

Ontario

Message from the Minister

Hon. Dan Newman

A clean Ontario is a strong, healthy Ontario. At the Ministry of the Environment our job is to ensure strong environmental protection and to promote the conservation and stewardship of our air, water and land. Effectively carrying out these core businesses helps make Ontario the best North American jurisdiction in which to live, work and raise a family. As Minister of the Environment, I am pleased to share with you our 2000-2001 business plan. The plan outlines some of our achievements from the past year and our commitments and targets to further improve and protect the health of our communities and ecosystems.

Protecting the quality and quantity of our water resources will remain a priority. Over the next year, we are taking steps to further protect water quality including new regulatory measures for municipal water treatment facilities. Municipalities must use accredited laboratories and advise the ministry if they are changing the facility that is testing their water. Requirements will be made clear for reporting test results indicating below standard water quality. Municipalities must make all their sample reports available to the public. In addition, the ministry will be inspecting all municipal water treatment facilities to ensure they meet current and new standards. These actions will help to ensure Ontario's drinking water is safe and its quality remains among the best in the world.

Improving Ontario's air quality to protect human health will also continue to be a major focus. This year the ministry unveiled strong measures targeting smog, acid rain and climate change including tough new emissions caps and mandatory monitoring and reporting of air emissions.

Setting environmental protection rules and making sure these rules are kept is a big part of our job. This included strengthening Ontario's hazardous waste management regulations this past year. New laws will be proposed to set the toughest pollution penalties in Canada. An environmental SWAT team and pollution hotline will increase our ability to enforce environmental protection rules.

I am confident that by working together with our many partners and the people of Ontario we can ensure prosperity and a healthy environment both now and in the future.

The Honourable Dan Newman
Minister of the Environment

Ministry Vision

The vision of the Ministry of the Environment is an Ontario where human health, ecosystems, recreation, commerce and industry are sustained by clean air, water and land.

To fulfil this vision, the ministry sets clear policies, standards and rules to protect the environment and to encourage conservation activities. Along with monitoring the environment and enforcing these rules, the ministry looks for innovative approaches to complement legislation and regulations. These include working with communities, industries and organizations towards finding flexible, practical, cost-effective ways to strengthen environmental protection and conservation efforts.

A healthy, natural environment is vital to the well-being of our families. We play an important role in making this province the best jurisdiction in North America in which to live, work and raise a family by providing better, stronger and clearer environmental protection.

Core Businesses

Environmental Protection

The ministry is in the business of safeguarding our environment by working to ensure cleaner air, water and land, and healthier ecosystems for the health and welfare of all Ontarians.

We establish standards that protect human health and the environment, and develop policies and guidelines to implement these standards. We establish and enforce legislation and regulations to ensure the environment is protected. By monitoring trends in environmental quality and applying sound science, technology, and research we are able to determine the effectiveness of our programs and the risks of pollution to human health and the natural environment. We continue to review policies and regulations on environmental protection to ensure they are appropriate in their scope and applicability.

We coordinate responses to environmental incidents and enforce the rules that protect our air, water and land – ensuring that polluters clean up the damage they have caused.

We also work in partnership with others to prevent pollution and to achieve common environmental objectives by inviting other governments, industry, municipalities, communities, organizations, academia, and individuals to find innovative solutions to environmental challenges.

Conservation and Stewardship

The ministry is also in the business of encouraging and providing guidance on environmentally sustainable use of water, land and resources. This means maximizing efficient use of resource materials and becoming better stewards of the environment.

We continue to rely on partnerships with other governments, industry, municipalities, communities, organizations, academia, and individuals to raise awareness and achieve our conservation and stewardship targets. By working together, we can reduce pollutants and waste, save energy and conserve water.

Annual Report on Key Achievements for 1999-2000

Cleaner air and water as well as stronger enforcement continue to be top priorities for the Ministry of the Environment. Ontario is among the leaders in North America in attacking air pollution. During the past year we took a number of key actions toward improving Ontario's air quality.

We announced tough new measures, targeted directly at smog, acid rain and climate change to strengthen our already aggressive campaign to improve air quality in Ontario. Key measures include the introduction of mandatory tracking and reporting of harmful air emissions by industrial and commercial emitters, and tough new emissions caps for smog, acid rain causing pollutants and carbon dioxide (a greenhouse gas). In preparation for the opening of Ontario's competitive electricity market, the measures will first be applied to the electricity sector – extending later to other sectors across the province. An emissions monitoring and reporting regulation took effect in May 2000 for all electric power generating companies. Starting January 2001, it will be expanded to apply to Ontario's other sectors. In addition, tough new regulated emissions caps will be required in January 2001 for all Ontario's electricity industry and will expand to other sectors to help meet our long-term commitment under the Anti-Smog Action Plan.

However, as more than half of our smog originates from U.S. sources, we have a vital interest in reducing transboundary air pollution. That is why we made presentations to the U.S. Court of Appeals to support the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Rule requiring a number of states and the District of Columbia to reduce emissions of smog-causing pollutants. We welcomed the U.S. Court of Appeals recent decision upholding the USEPA Rule. This decision adds to our aggressive campaign to improve Ontario's air quality.

The Drive Clean light-duty vehicle program in the Phase 1 area (the Greater Toronto Area and Hamilton-Wentworth Region) had 1,030 Drive Clean facilities in operation, which tested about 1.3 million vehicles. The heavy-duty truck and bus testing program, which began September 30, 1999, tested nearly 100,000 vehicles. Reduction in smog-causing pollutants from the first year of testing was estimated at 6.7 per cent (8,646 tonnes) putting the program on target for its goal of a 22 per cent (30,000 tonnes) reduction when the program is fully operational in 2004. There was also an estimated reduction of 100 tonnes of sulphur dioxide. Planning for the Phase 2 expansion across most of southern Ontario in 2001 is underway.

We worked actively with federal and other provincial and territorial governments to develop the first set of four Canada-wide Standards for particulate matter, ozone, benzene and mercury. Ontario led the federal/provincial/territorial team developing standards for mercury. We will be finalizing the first set of standards in 2000, and are committed to developing the next set of Canada-wide Standards. Cooperation and information sharing among jurisdictions and stakeholders avoids duplication and is vital in determining scientifically sound, enhanced guidelines to protect human health and the environment.

On climate change, we worked with other ministries, the federal government and other provinces and territories to examine national options for climate change and the consequences of the Kyoto Protocol. To date, provincial staff from eight ministries have been involved in examining options to develop an Ontario action plan on climate change and air quality.

During the past year we also took a number of key actions toward improving Ontario's water quality. Ontario was the first province to file a conservation-based regulation to prevent the transfer of water out of major water basins, including the Great Lakes. The Water Taking and Transfer Regulation, which came into effect April 30, 1999, prohibits the transfer of water from three water basins: the Great-Lakes-St. Lawrence, Nelson and Hudson Bay basins. As well, the regulation tightens requirements for the issue of permits to take water from Ontario waterways.

There is clear evidence that progress is being made on cleaning up the Great Lakes thanks to the partnership of provincial and federal agencies, private sector organizations and residents. The province has so far invested over $300 million towards Great Lakes Areas of Concern. Beneficial uses in these areas have improved by more than 50 per cent. Noteworthy examples are Collingwood Harbour, which has been delisted as an Area of Concern, and Spanish Harbour, recognized as an area that is well on its way to recovery. Implementation of the Remedial Action Plans at Jackfish Bay, Peninsula Harbour, Nipigon Bay and Wheatley Harbour are complete or well on the way to completion. Increased fish and wildlife habitat has seen many important species returning to historic industrial ports and harbours. Four species of fish which had almost vanished from Lake Ontario have increased in numbers.

We added 15 municipal water supply systems to our drinking water surveillance program. The total number of systems currently covered by the program is 175, which covers 88 per cent of the municipal communal services in Ontario. A report, *Drinking Water in Ontario*, published in February 2000 shows that overall Ontario's municipalities ensure their drinking water quality is among the highest in the world.. Under the Goundwater Management Studies Fund, we provided $4.3 million funding for 34 groundwater studies involving over 88 municipalities . One objective

of the fund is to encourage municipalities to assess water resources and to develop measures to protect groundwater supplies that supply municipalities with drinking water.

Progress is being made on developing tough new hazardous waste standards. We took action to strengthen our hazardous waste regulations by making what was previously a policy manual on classifying hazardous wastes part of the regulation. The hazardous waste regulation was revised to ensure that even if listed hazardous waste is mixed with other substances, it will still be considered the same type of hazardous waste. Additional proposals to strengthen the hazardous waste regulation and harmonize it with U.S. rules were placed on the Environmental Bill of Rights registry for public comment in February 2000.

We are moving forward on achieving Ontario's waste diversion target of halving the amount of waste sent for disposal by forming the Waste Diversion Organization (WDO). The WDO is a partnership of government, municipalities and industry that helps fund municipal Blue Box and other waste diversion programs. The organization is based on a one-year, voluntary Memorandum of Understanding. Its members have committed $14.5 million to develop, implement and fund municipal waste diversion programs.

More than 50 per cent of high level PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) previously in storage have been destroyed. This exceeds the *Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Ecosystem* (COA) target for the year 2000. The COA is intended to set environmental targets to restore degraded areas, reduce pollution and conserve the health of the ecosystem.

Key Commitments and Strategies for 2000-2001

The ministry's key strategies for 2000-2001 support the delivery of our core businesses of protecting the environment and promoting the conservation and stewardship of the province's resources. Our commitments and strategies build on our previous commitments and achievements to move forward on preventing pollution, conserving resources and effectively enforcing Ontario's environmental laws.

To build a better, stronger, clearer environmental agenda in keeping with our statement of environmental values

The ministry's mandate, articulated in the statement of environmental values (SEV) that underpins all its activities, is to protect the quality of the natural environment so as to safeguard the ecosystem and human health and to foster the efficient use and conservation of resources. The SEV's guiding principles are:

- to consider the whole ecosystem,
- to focus on prevention of pollutants that cause environmental damage, and
- to encourage conservation and sustainable use of resources.

The SEV influences every aspect of our decision-making, internal management practices and approach to public participation.

Environmental Protection

The ministry will continue to focus on finding solutions to problems that pose the greatest risk to human health and the environment. This means that our commitment to ensuring cleaner air remains a high priority.

Starting January 2001, we will begin to require reporting of emissions for all companies and organizations in Ontario's commercial, industrial, private and public sectors. To ensure this new regulation is effective, we are committed to consulting the public through the Environmental Bill of Rights registry.

The government has set a target of reducing sulphur dioxide (SO_2) emissions by 50 per cent beyond the countdown Acid Rain Program cap by 2015 as part of its contribution to the Canada-Wide Acid Rain Strategy for Post-2000. The province is also committed to meeting the targets of its Anti-Smog Action Plan, which include reducing provincial emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO_X) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) by 45 per cent compared to their 1990 levels, by the year 2015. In preparation for the opening of Ontario's competitive electricity market, regulated

caps will first be put in place for all Ontario's electricity industry. However, achieving the government's clean air targets requires co-operation among all levels of government, people and businesses in all economic sectors and regions. We will enter into discussions with major Ontario emission sources and other stakeholders to define the scope, timing and implementation of new emissions limits across the other sectors.

Effective January 1, 2001, other new key measures proposed in our programs will be introduced. One measure is emissions reduction trading to assist businesses to meet the tough new regulated caps on emissions. We are also establishing environmental performance standards which must be met for any electricity sold in Ontario regardless of where it is generated. We will enter into discussions with stakeholders regarding the design and implementation of these actions.

Many of the actions targeting smog and acid rain will provide co-benefits to addressing climate change. Ontario has taken leadership to curb climate change-related emissions through Drive Clean and the province's landfill regulations requiring the capture of methane. We are committed to sustaining the momentum of climate change actions already underway with new ideas, new action and greater participation.

As part of our campaign to reduce smog, we are taking steps to provide better province-wide air quality information and earlier, more effective warning whenever smog conditions are expected. A new Web site, www.airqualityontario.com, will help Ontarians access air quality information including predictions of smog levels. It will also provide information on actions we can all take to reduce smog especially on smog alert days.

The government has a commitment to combine the patchwork of environmental laws into one clear, comprehensive and easily-enforced set of laws and to stiffen fines for polluters and increase jail terms. We plan to establish tough penalties for those who pollute the environment.

Work is continuing on developing an environmental SWAT team - a specialized group that will audit industries to make sure they're obeying the laws. A toll-free pollution hotline for Ontarians to report possible acts of pollution is also planned.

We will build on the actions we took last year to strengthen Ontario's hazardous waste regulation. Additional proposals to strengthen the hazardous waste regulation and harmonize it with U.S. rules were placed on the Environmental Bill of Rights registry for public comment in February 2000.

Cleaning up the Great Lakes has been, and will continue to be, a gradual and cumulative process. Although, the Great Lakes are cleaner than they have been for 50 years, there is still more to do. It requires good science, hard work, strong commitment, and above all, effective partnerships. Our involvement in the binational Lakewide Management Plans for Lake Superior, Lake Erie and Lake

Ontario is just one example of our commitment to bring about actual improvements to the Great Lakes ecosystem. We are committed to continuing efforts with the Federal Government and other partners to address environmental challenges in the Great Lakes basin.

We are working to strengthen the requirements that protect our drinking water quality to ensure that all Ontarians have safe, clean drinking water.

Along with other initiatives to protect drinking water, the ministry, in partnership with conservation authorities and municipalities, is providing $6 million over the next few years to establish a groundwater monitoring network. Over the next year, we will begin to work with conservation authorities and municipalities to install electronic monitors to measure water levels in wells across Ontario; establish a provincial groundwater information base; complete hydrogeological mapping to show availability to groundwater; and undertake chemical analysis of groundwater supplies.

We are working closely with other ministries to ensure short and long term actions are taken to protect our water supplies. We are also actively involved in provincial efforts being carried out to deal effectively with current and emerging water issues.

Conservation and Stewardship

In support of its core business of conservation and stewardship, the ministry will promote more stakeholder and public involvement by focussing on individual and community actions, and on partnerships with industry and others to achieve sustainable use and conservation of resources.

The ministry will work with the Waste Diversion Organization (WDO) to establish a permanent structure to implement its mandate to expand and improve the Blue Box program in order to achieve the province's waste reduction target. The WDO is a partnership between industry, municipalities, non-governmental organization and the province. The WDO will be developing a long-term sustainable funding plan for the Blue Box and other waste diversion programs and implementing programs for recycling, centralized composting, and household special waste.

The ministry will continue to work with individuals and stakeholders to secure their involvement in finding effective solutions to environmental priorities.

To focus on customer service

Customer service is a vital component of how we conduct our business. We will continue to find efficiencies, improve the turnaround time for ministry approvals, implement innovative information technologies, boost performance and enhance delivery of programs by sharing common services among ministries. As part of the *Quality Service Initiative*, the ministry undertook a comprehensive review and comparison of its organizational practices against a world-class organizational model

of quality service criteria. We will be putting a *Quality Service Plan* in place to improve organizational effectiveness.

Key Performance Measures

Core Business: Environmental Protection			
Goals/Outcomes	Measures	Targets/Standards	2000-2001 Commitments
Cleaner air	Reductions in Ontario-based air emissions, as measured by nitrogen oxides (NO_x), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), particulate emissions (PM) and sulphur dioxide (SO_2).	45% reduction in NO_x and VOC emissions by the year 2015; 25% by the year 2005 and 10% reduction in PM_{10} emissions by 2015. 1990 base: NO_x 659 kt VOCs 866 kt PM_{10} 221 kt 50% reduction in SO_2 by 2015 from current Countdown Acid Rain limit (885 kt in 2000).	Enhance activities under Anti-Smog Action Plan. Develop regulations to provide NO_x and SO_2 limits in the restructured electricity system. Develop a regulation to extend mandatory emissions reporting to all industrial sectors. Increase Drive Clean program area for light duty vehicles (LDV) (Phase 2) and non-diesel heavy duty vehicles. At least 400 LDV testing facilities for Phase 2 will be established by January 1, 2001. Require industry to undertake 30 air emission inventories and reduce emission levels. Undertake inspections of at least 640 air emission sources. Continued monitoring and ensuring publicly accessible information on air quality.

Cleaner water	Quality of drinking water	Communal water supplies that provide access to safe drinking water to Ontario residents.	Ensure regulated health standards for drinking water are adhered to by undertaking inspections of all municipal water treatment facilities.
	Quality of ground and surface water	Improvement in specific indicators of Ontario's aquatic ecosystems as measured by: Percentage of sport fish consumption restrictions in the Great Lakes reduced by 10% by the year 2010 (1995 base - 589 restrictions or 33.9% restricted.)	Ensure regulated standards are adhered to by undertaking inspections of at least 120 municipal sewage treatment facilities. Apply the Water Quality Index to three additional watersheds in Ontario. Establish a groundwater monitoring network in 7 key watersheds in Ontario.
Cleaner land	Land quality	Measured improvements in contaminated land rehabilitation.	Indicators of land remediation and associated targets will be developed and baselines determined. Continue remediation of Deloro mine site and Smithville PCB site.

Healthier ecosystems	Effective enforcement	Enhanced use of environmental enforcement tools to increase compliance and environmental protection as measured by prosecutions and penalties.	Measured by prosecutions and penalties.
	Destruction of PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls)	Destruction of 50% of high level PCBs in storage by the year 2000 (compared to the 1994 base year quantity of 18,600 tonnes).	Destruction of 60% of high level PCBs in storage.
	Reduction in the average turnaround times for air emission Certificates of Approval by 30% (baseline of 70 days) Reduction in the average turnaround times for ministerial decisions on environmental assessments by 65% (baseline of 22 months).	The 1999-2000 commitment of achieving an average turnaround of 55 days has been met.	Achieve an average turnaround of 49 days.

Core Business: Conservation and Stewardship			
Goals/Outcomes	Measures	Targets/Standards	2000-2001 Commitments
Resource Conservation	Reductions in non-hazardous waste going to disposal	Continuous improvement towards 50% reduction from the base year of 1987.	Non-hazardous waste going to disposal will be reduced by an additional 2% from prior year. The ministry will review progress of the Waste Diversion Organization related to establishing a long term sustainable funding plan for the Blue Box program and the implementation of other diversion programs.
Environmental stewardship	Participation of stakeholders	Reduction of 60,000 tonnes of toxic substances and wastes, beyond regulatory requirements, by the year 2003 through ministry partnerships (base year 1999)	Reduce 12,000 tonnes of toxic substances and wastes through partnerships.

1999 - 2000 Ministry Spending by Core Business - Interim Actuals*

Ministry of the Environment	
Operating	$174 million
Capital	$167 million
	1,395 staff

Environmental Protection	
Operating	$122 million
Capital	$159 million
	1,144 staff

Conservation & Stewardship	
Operating	$6 million
Capital	$8 million
	68 staff

Internal Administration	
Operating	$46 million
Capital	----
	183 staff

Note: Staff numbers are shown as full-time equivalents.
Staff numbers exclude Ontario Clean Water Agency

*PSAB based

2000-2001 Ministry Approved Allocations by Core Business Plan*

Ministry of the Environment	
Operating	$158 million
Capital	$65 million
	1,440 staff

Environmental Protection	
Operating	$117 million
Capital	$65 million
	1,197 staff

Conservation & Stewardship	
Operating	$5 million
Capital	----
	69 staff

Internal Administration	
Operating	$36 million
Capital	----
	174 staff

Note: Staff numbers are shown as full-time equivalents.
Staff numbers exclude Ontario Clean Water Agency

*PSAB based

Who to Call

Questions or comments about the ministry's business plan are welcomed and should be addressed to:

Corporate Management Division
Carmen Gauthier (416-314-7370) (fax: 416-314-7858) GAUTHICA@ene.gov.on.ca
Director, Business and Fiscal Planning Branch
40 St. Clair Avenue West, 8th Floor, Toronto, ON M4V 1M2

Integrated Environmental Planning Division
Doug Harper (416-314-8475) (fax: 416-314-8478) HarperDo@ene.gov.on.ca
Director, Environmental Liaison Office
135 St. Clair Avenue West, 6th Floor, Toronto, ON M4V 1P5

Environmental Sciences and Standards Division
Ed Piché (416-235-6160) (fax: 416-235-6235) PICHEED@ene.gov.on.ca
Director, Environmental Monitoring and Reporting Branch
125 Resources Road, West Wing, Toronto, ON M9P 3V6

Operations Division
Brian Ward (613-548-6901) (fax: 613-548-6911) WARDBR@ene.gov.on.ca
Director, Eastern Region, Kingston Regional Office
133 Dalton Avenue, P.O. Box 820, Kingston, ON K7L 4X6

Minister's Office
135 St. Clair Avenue West, 12th Floor
Toronto, ON M4V 1P5
(phone: 416-314-6790)
(fax: 416-314-6748)
Minister@ene.gov.on.ca

Communications Branch
Anne Edwards (416-314-6657) (fax 416-314-6713) EDWARDAN@ene.gov.on.ca
135 St. Clair Avenue West, 2nd Floor, Toronto, ON M4V 1P5

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